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A COVER-GLASS SUPPORT FOR SOLID MOUNTS.

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For a number of years I have been conducting a series of experiments with cover-glass supports other than cement cells. The desiderata being permanency of the mount and rapidity of its preparation, cement cells will not answer my purpose on account of the time necessary to prepare them properly and the large number that I would be obliged to keep constantly on hand, and tinfoil, glass, etc., have not been satisfactory to me.

The method I have had in constant use for over a year, with perfectly satisfactory results, consists in a ring made as follows: A piece of silver suture wire of suitable thickness is bent around a mandril and the ends cut off where they meet. The ring is now placed on a flat metal block, as the bottom of a flat-iron, and flattened by a few blows of a hammer. This will spread the ends of the ring slightly.

In use it is placed on the slide and filled with moderately thick balsam. The specimen is then placed on top, and after a few moments the cover put on and a clip applied. Bubbles pass out with the surplus balsam expelled on the side of the opening, and the balsam should be left on the slide for a few days, to go back into the cell and supply the deficiency caused by the evaporation of the solvent.

When hard, the slide is cleaned and a preparatory coating given of shellac, followed by a ring of Brunswick black.

The mandril that I use is made of maple, and consists of a series of steps, each size producing a ring slightly smaller than the corresponding cover.

Very thick specimens are soaked for twenty-four hours, or longer if necessary, in very dilute balsam before being transferred to the cell.